Amendments to the Claims:
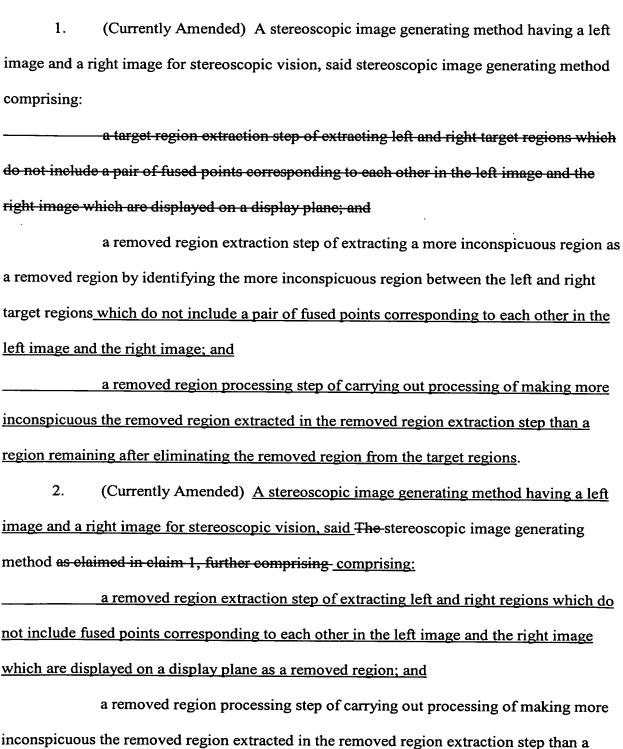
The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A stereoscopic image generating method having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said stereoscopic image generating method comprising:

~~a target region extraction step of extracting left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane; and~~

a removed region extraction step of extracting a more inconspicuous region as a removed region by identifying the more inconspicuous region between the left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image; and

a removed region processing step of carrying out processing of making more inconspicuous the removed region extracted in the removed region extraction step than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

2. (Currently Amended) A stereoscopic image generating method having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said ~~The~~ stereoscopic image generating method ~~as claimed in claim 1, further comprising~~ comprising:

a removed region extraction step of extracting left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane as a removed region; and

a removed region processing step of carrying out processing of making more inconspicuous the removed region extracted in the removed region extraction step than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Currently Amended) The stereoscopic image generating method as claimed in claim 1, ~~claim 2,~~ wherein the processing of making more inconspicuous is a processing of blurring the removed region.

5.   (Currently Amended) The stereoscopic image generating method as claimed in claim 2, ~~claim 3,~~ wherein the processing of making more inconspicuous is a processing of blurring the removed region.

6.   (Currently Amended) The stereoscopic image generating method as claimed in claim 1, ~~claim 2,~~ wherein the processing of making more inconspicuous is a processing of reducing contrast of the removed region.

7.   (Currently Amended) The stereoscopic image generating method as claimed in claim 2, ~~claim 3,~~ wherein the processing of making more inconspicuous is a processing of reducing contrast of the removed region.

8.   (Currently Amended) The stereoscopic image generating method as claimed in claim 1, ~~claim 2,~~ wherein the processing of making more inconspicuous is a processing of reducing saturation or brightness of the removed region.

9.   (Currently Amended) The stereoscopic image generating method as claimed in claim 2, ~~claim 3,~~ wherein the processing of making more inconspicuous is a processing of reducing saturation or brightness of the removed region.

10.   (Currently Amended) The stereoscopic image generating method as claimed in claim 1, ~~claim 2,~~ wherein the processing of making more inconspicuous is a processing of bringing a hue of the removed region to a cold color family.

11.   (Currently Amended) The stereoscopic image generating method as claimed in claim 2, ~~claim 3,~~ wherein the processing of making more inconspicuous is a processing of bringing a hue of the removed region close to a cold color family.

12.   (Currently Amended) The stereoscopic image generating method as claimed in claim 1, ~~claim 2,~~ wherein the processing of making more inconspicuous is a processing of bringing a hue, saturation or brightness of the removed region close to a hue, saturation or brightness of a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

13.   (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A stereoscopic image having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, the stereoscopic image ~~generating method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the processing of making more inconspicuous is a processing of bringing a hue, saturation or brightness of the removed region close to a hue, saturation or brightness of~~ being processed so as to make more inconspicuous left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

14.   (Currently Amended) The stereoscopic image generating method as claimed in claim 1, ~~claim 2,~~ wherein the processing of making more inconspicuous is one of or a combination of the following processings:

(1)   processing of blurring the removed region;

(2)   processing of reducing contrast of the removed region;

(3)   processing of reducing saturation or brightness of the removed region;

(4)   processing of bringing a hue of the removed region close to a cold color family; and

(5)   processing of bringing a hue, saturation or brightness of the removed region close to a hue, saturation or brightness of a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

15.   (Currently Amended) The stereoscopic image generating method as claimed in claim 2, ~~claim 3,~~ wherein the processing of making more inconspicuous is one of or a combination of the following processings:

(1)   processing of blurring the removed region;

(2)   processing of reducing contrast of the removed region;

(3)   processing of reducing saturation or brightness of the removed region;

(4)   processing of bringing a hue of the removed region close to a cold color family; and

(5)   processing of bringing a hue, saturation or brightness of the removed region close to a hue, saturation or brightness of a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

16.   (Currently Amended) A stereoscopic image generating apparatus having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said stereoscopic image generating apparatus comprising:

~~target region extraction means of extracting left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane; and~~

removed region extraction means of extracting a more inconspicuous region as a removed region by identifying the more inconspicuous region between the left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image; and

a removed region processing means for carrying out processing of making more inconspicuous the removed region extracted in the removed region extraction means than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

17.   (Currently Amended) <u>A stereoscopic image generating apparatus having a left</u> <u>image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said stereoscopic image generating apparatus</u> <u>comprising:</u> ~~The stereoscopic image generating apparatus as claimed in claim 16, further~~ ~~comprising~~

<u>a removed region extraction means of extracting left and right regions which</u> do not include <u>fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image</u> <u>which are displayed on a display plane as a removed region; and</u>

a removed region processing means of carrying out processing of making more inconspicuous the removed region identified by said removed region extraction means than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

18.   (Currently Amended) A stereoscopic viewing method of watching a stereoscopic image having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said stereoscopic viewing method comprising:

~~a target region extraction step of extracting left and right target regions which~~ ~~do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the~~ ~~right image which are displayed on a display plane; and~~

a removed region extraction step of extracting a more inconspicuous region as a removed region by identifying the more inconspicuous region between the left and right target regions <u>which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the</u> <u>left image and the right image; and</u>

<u>a removed region processing step of carrying out processing of making more</u> <u>inconspicuous the removed region extracted in the removed region extraction step than a</u> <u>region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.</u>

19.   (Currently Amended) <u>A stereoscopic image generating method having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said stereoscopic viewing method comprising:</u> ~~The stereoscopic viewing method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising~~

<u>a removed region extraction step of extracting left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane as a removed region; and</u>

a removed region processing step of carrying out processing of making more inconspicuous the removed region extracted in the removed region extraction step than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

20.   (Currently Amended) A stereoscopic viewing apparatus for showing a stereoscopic image having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said stereoscopic viewing apparatus comprising:

~~target region extraction means of extracting left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane; and~~

removed region extraction means of extracting a more inconspicuous region as a removed region by identifying the more inconspicuous region between the left and right target regions <u>which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image; and</u>

<u>a removed region processing means for carrying out processing of making more inconspicuous the removed region extracted in the removed region extraction means than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.</u>

21.   (Currently Amended) <u>A stereoscopic image generating apparatus having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said stereoscopic viewing apparatus comprising:</u> ~~The stereoscopic viewing apparatus as claimed in claim 20, further comprising~~

a removed region extraction means of extracting left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane as a removed region; and

a removed region processing means of carrying out processing of making more inconspicuous the removed region extracted in the removed region extraction means than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

22.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a ~~A~~ program for controlling a stereoscopic image generating apparatus having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said program causing said stereoscopic image generating apparatus to execute:

~~a target region extraction step of extracting left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane; and~~

a removed region extraction step of extracting a more inconspicuous region as a removed by identifying the more inconspicuous region between the left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image; and

a removed region processing step of carrying out processing of making more inconspicuous the removed region extracted in the removed region extraction step than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

23.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a program for controlling a stereoscopic image generating apparatus having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said program, ~~The program as claimed in claim 22, further~~ causing said stereoscopic image generating apparatus to ~~execute~~ execute:

_____ a removed region extraction step of extracting left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane as a removed region; and

_____ a removed region processing step of carrying out processing of making more inconspicuous the removed region extracted in the removed region extraction step than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions.

24. (Currently Amended) A stereoscopic image generating method which has a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, and forms a virtual stereoscopic image by vergence angles generated from individual points corresponding in the left image and the right image, said stereoscopic image generating method comprising:

~~a target region extraction step of extracting left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane;~~

a removed region extraction step of extracting a more inconspicuous region as a removed region by identifying the more inconspicuous region between the left and right target ~~regions; and~~regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image;

_____ a removed region processing step of carrying out processing of making more inconspicuous the removed region extracted in the removed region extraction step than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target regions; and

a vergence angle modifying step of increasing a stereoscopic effect by carrying out deformation processing of a left image and a right image of a stereoscopic image which are prepared in advance to form the virtual stereoscopic image, by increasing or decreasing the vergence angles generated by the individual points of the stereoscopic image according to a prescribed rule, and by altering a depth of the virtual stereoscopic image.

25.   (Currently Amended) A stereoscopic image generating method which has a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, and forms a virtual stereoscopic image by vergence angles generated from individual points corresponding in the left image and the right image, said ~~The~~ stereoscopic image generating ~~method as claimed in claim 24, further comprising~~ method, comprising:

a removed region extraction step of extracting left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane as a removed region;

a removed region processing step of carrying out processing of making more inconspicuous the removed region extracted in the removed region extraction step than a region remaining after eliminating the removed region from the target ~~regions.~~ regions; and

a vergence angle modifying step of increasing a stereoscopic effect by carrying out deformation processing of a left image and a right image of a stereoscopic image which are prepared in advance to form the virtual stereoscopic image, by increasing or decreasing the vergence angles generated by the individual points of the stereoscopic image according to a prescribed rule, and by altering a depth of the virtual stereoscopic image.